

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14211 261414Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 261220Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8745

S E C R E T CAIRO 14211

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG PLO

SUBJ: EGYPT/ARAFAT TALKS

REF: SECTO 09049

1. SINCE TODAY IS FRIDAY, MUSLIM SABBATH, I GOT IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY AT HIS HOME TO CONVEY YOUR RESPONSE TO HIS SUGGESTION. TOLD HIM WE ARE NOT PREPARED AMEND ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF OUR FORMULATION RE RESOLUTION 242 AND CANNOT AGREE TO DELETE SECOND SENTENCE OF FORMULATION AS FAHMY SUGGESTED. I AGAIN REMINDED HIM THAT WORDING WAS CAREFULLY DRAFTED AND IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR PURPOSES.

2. FAHMY AGAIN MADE EFFORT ARGUE THAT SECOND SENTENCE IS REDUNDANT, BUT DID NOT PURSUE MATTER. FAHMY THEN STATED THAT WE MADE MISTAKE IN WAY IN WHICH WE DISTRIBUTED OUR DRAFT STATEMENT. SAUDI FONMIN SAUD BIN FAYSAL, HE CLAIMED, HAD TOLD ARAFAT THAT ALL WE REQUIRED IS A RESERVATION ON THE REFUGEE LANGUAGE, NOT THE SECOND PART OF OUR DRAFT STATEMENT. AS A RESULT, FAHMY'S OWN CREDIBILITY HAD BEEN HURT IN PROPOSING OUR FORMULATION. THE PLO, HE CONTENDED, STILL DOES NOT BELIEVE EGYPTIAN ARGUMENTS THAT WE REQUIRE

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THE FORMULATION HE HAD CONVEYED TO ARAFAT. DURING RECENT MEETINGS IN CAIRO, PLO LEADERSHIP HAD AGAIN ARGUED THAT FORMULATIONS PROPOSED BY SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS ARE DIFFERENT. FAHMY CLAIMS HE SAID THIS COULD NOT BE. WE HAD INFORMED GOE THAT SAME FORMULATION WAS SENT TO ALL ARAB GOVERNMENTS (SECTO 8075). ARAFAT NEVERTHELESS INSISTED FORMULATION GIVEN HIM BY SAUDIS DELETES SECOND SENTENCE.

3. FAHMY SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF WE CONTACT THE SAUDIS TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE APPARENT CONFUSION AND TO ASK THEM TO EMPHASIZE TO PLO LEADERSHIP FACT THAT WE DEEM INCLUSION OF SECOND SENTENCE AS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR PURPOSES.

4. ALSO CONVEYED TO FAHMY SUBSTANCE PARA 3. HE WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON WEST BANK AND GAZA AND STATEMENT ON NEW SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK WERE IMPORTANT. HE HAD PICKED UP PHRASE "PRESENTLY OCCUPIED" TERRITORIES AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS LANGUAGE.

5. COMMENT: AS REPORTED ALEXANDRIA 805, FAHMY CLAIMED EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT THE VERSION THE SAUDIS WERE USING AS RESULT OF FAHD'S WASHINGTON TALKS WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH YOU AND HE WORKED OUT IN ALEXANDRIA. PRE-SUMABLY THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLEARED UP AFTER WE GAVE THE SAME TEXT TO ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE SAUDIS. FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT FAHMY INSISTS, PERHAPS TO COVER UP FOR HIS OWN INABILITY PERSUADE ARAFAT, THAT SAUDIS ARE STILL PUTTING FORWARD A DIFFERENT VERSION OF OUR FORMULATION FROM THAT GIVEN TO THE EGYPTIANS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO14211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850052-1964
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770820/aaaaaqma.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 717be852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 SECTO 9049
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1477153
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPT/ARAFAT TALKS
TAGS: PDEV, EG, XF, PLO
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/717be852-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009